GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1849
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2002
SMUGGLING OF NARCOTICS
MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons caught by the custom officials between May 1, 2002 and June 6, 2002 for smuggling ofheroine, hashish and other narcotics to foreign countries;

(b) the value of the narcotics seized from them; and

(c) the details of the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check the smuggling of narcotics?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) Twenty four persons were caught by the customs officials between May 1, 2002 and June 6, 2002 for the smuggling ofheroin, hashish and other narcotics to foreign countries.

(b) All confiscated narcotic drugs are liable to be destroyed and no authentic market value exists. Hence, precise valuation of the abovementioned seized narcotic drugs is not possible.

(c) The Government of India has taken a number of steps toprevent and put an effective check on drug trafficking. These include instructions to all drug enforcement agencies to maintain utmost vigil and step up the enforcement efforts, training of the enforcement officers, close interaction between the agencies of the Centre and the State Governments, neutralizing drugsyndicates by coordinated action, modernization and upgradation of the police and security forces with advanced sophisticated weapons, fencing and flood lighting of the Indo-Pak border, vesting of powers in the Border Security Force and the CoastGuards under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs, notifying certain precursor chemicals, viz., Acetic Anhydride, Ephedrine, etc., as `Controlled Substances` under the NDPS Act,quarterly coordination meetings of the Narcotics Control Bureauwith all Central and State Agencies concerned, holding of periodic bilateral meetings of the Indian and Pakistani Anti-Narcotics Agencies, etc.